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BS 400 Bible Survey

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Asbury Theological Seminary
BS400
Bible Survey
Fall 2000

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OVERVIEW

An introduction to the basic content of the Christian Scripture.

LEARNING GOALS

1. Content: Students will know and be able to articulate the basic content of the Bible, the OT, the NT and each book therein. Students will thereby gain a confidence in navigating the pages of Scripture.
2. Hermeneutics/Exegesis: This course does not cover hermeneutics or exegesis, the science and art of interpreting texts. However, this course does seek to acquaint students with Biblical content foundational to interpreting the Bible and specific passages therein. Therefore, student will be aware of the possible interpretative significance of Biblical content. Students will be confident enough in their knowledge of Biblical content to use it in other interpretative courses and/or preparation for preaching and teaching.
3. Biblical Theology: This course does not cover biblical theology, the articulation of the theological message of Scripture as a whole. However, this course does seek to acquaint students with Biblical content foundational to articulating a Biblical theology. Therefore, student will be aware of possible directions for Biblical theology in light Biblical content. Students will be confident enough in their knowledge of Biblical content to use it to articulate a Biblical theology in other courses and in the practice of ministry.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Bible! Preferably *NRSV* or *RSV*. *NIV* allowable.

Anderson, Bernhard W. *The Unfolding Drama of the BIBLE*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1988.

Marshall, Celia Brewer. *A Guide Through the Old Testament*. Louisville: Westminster/ John Knox, 1989.

Marshall, Celia Brewer. *A Guide Through the New Testament*. Louisville: Westminster/ John Knox, 1994.

COLLATERAL TEXTS

Aharoni, Yohanan and Michael Avi-Yonah. *The Macmillian Bible Atlas*. 3rd ed. Rev. Anson F. Rainey and Ze'ev Safrai. New York: Macmillian, 1993.

Bauer, David. *Biblical Resources for Ministry*. 2nd ed. Napanee: Evangel, 1995.
Bible Map Insert. Fort Smith: Son Light, 1995.

Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1981.

Bruce, F.F. *New Testament History*. Garden City: Doubleday, 1969.

SEQUENCE OF UNITS AND SUB-UNITS

Sept 5	Introduction		
Sept 7, 12, 14	Torah		OT
Sept 19, 21, 26	Former	Prophets	
Oct 3, 5, 10, 12	Latter		
Sept 28, Oct 17, 19, 24	Writings		
Oct 26	OT Exam		
Oct 31, Nov 2, 7, 9	Gospels		NT
Nov 9	John	Letters	
Nov 14, 16, 28	Paul		
Nov 30	General		
Dec 5	Apocalyptic		
Dec 14	NT Exam		
Dec 7	Conclusion		

SEQUENCE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

Date	Lecture	Bible Reading	Workbook Study Guide Questions
9-5	1. Introduction		pp. 9-16, 19-20
9-7	2. Genesis	Genesis	pp. 22-8, 32, 34-42
9-12	3. Exodus-Numbers	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers	pp. 43-7, 49-55, 64-66
9-14	4. Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy	pp. 55-57
9-19	5. Joshua-Judges	Joshua, Judges	pp. 62-3, 67-8, 72-4
9-21	6. Samuel	1 & 2 Samuel	pp. 75-82, 83-86
9-26	7. Kings	1 & 2 Kings	pp. 87-97
9-28	8. Chronicles-Nehemiah	1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah	pp. 122-6
10-3	9. Isaiah	Isaiah	pp. 98-99, 104, 115-7
10-5	10. Jeremiah	Jeremiah	pp. 108-14
10-10	11. Ezekiel	Ezekiel	pp. 117-21
10-12	12. The Twelve	Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	pp. 99-101, 105-6, 126-28, 130-1
10-17	13. Psalms	Psalms	pp. 141-42
10-19	14. Wisdom	Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes	pp. 133-140
10-24	15. More Writings	Ruth, Songs of Songs, Lamentations, Esther, Daniel	pp. 128-30, 131-2, 144-50
10-26	OT Exam		[OT workbook due!]
10-31	16. Mark	Mark	pp. 11, 13-4, 17-24, 25-37
11-2	17. Matthew	Matthew	pp. 38-49
11-7	18. Luke-Acts	Luke, Acts	pp. 50-62
11-9	19. Gospel, Letters of John	John, 1, 2 & 3 John	pp. 63-7, 69-71
11-14	20. Pauline Letters (1)	1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Corinthians	pp. 76-90

SEQUENCE OF LECTURES AND READINGS CONT.

Date	Lecture	Bible Reading	Workbook Study Guide Questions
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11-16	21. Pauline Letters (2)	Romans, Galatians	pp. 91-3, 95-8
11-28	22. Prison & Pastoral Letters	Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Philemon, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus	pp. 100-4, 107-12
11-30	23. General Letters	Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, Jude	pp. 113, 115-8, 119-22
12-5	24. Revelation	Revelation	pp. 122-5
12-7	25. Conclusion	Anderson, <i>Drama</i> .	[Reflection paper due!]
12-14	NT Exam		[NT workbook due!]

PREPARATION FOR CLASS-TIME

You will prepare for class-time in three ways:

1. Complete the assigned readings from the Bible.
2. Complete the assigned workbook study guide questions and/or additional readings.
3. Bring your Bible, the appropriate workbook and/or the additional books.

EVALUATION: TWO EXAMINATIONS

Your grade be calculated basis of two examinations:

Examination	Date	Weight
OT Exam	Thursday October 26 4pm	50%
NT Exam	Thursday December 14 1pm	50%

This course is credit/non-credit. A grade of 70% will be required to receive credit.

ATTENDANCE

Students will indicate attendance each day on an attendance sheet. Students will be allowed two excused absences, if the instructor is notified at the student's earliest convenience. More than two unexcused absences will render a student ineligible to receive course credit.

READINGS

Students will complete all the assigned readings prior to class. Students will indicate at the beginning of each class on the attendance sheet what percentage of the assigned reading you completed for that day. Students will not be allowed to amend the percentage from previous class days. Failure to complete 100% of the assigned readings prior to class for more than two class days (including absences!) will render a student ineligible to receive course credit.

BREWER WORKBOOKS

Students will complete the assigned reading and study guide questions from the Brewer workbooks (*A Guide Through the OT* and *A Guide Through the NT*). The additional discussion questions, class projects, creative writing assignments, etc. are optional. Students will submit completed workbooks to the instructor during the appropriate examination period. Failure to submit the completed workbooks will render a student ineligible to receive course credit.

REFLECTION PAPER

Students will complete Anderson's *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible* by December 7. Students will write a one-page single-spaced reflection paper answering the following questions: "Do you think Anderson's view of the Bible as unfolding drama provides an adequate basis of a synthetic

Biblical theology? Why or why not? Strengths? Weaknesses? What other proposals might one suggest? How do they fare in comparison?" Students will submit this paper on December 7 as proof of completing the book. Failure to submit the reflection paper will render a student ineligible to receive course credit.